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the reputation he had acquired procured him from the Spanish government a sufficiently troublesome commission. The quicksilver mines of Huanca-Velica having been ruined by the falling in of the earth, and those of Almaden not furnishing a sufficient supply for working the gold mines of Peru and Chili, *Le regent de l'audience* of Chili received orders to cause others to be sought for. Dombey was applied to, and set off for the Cordilleras to examine the old mine of Coquimbo, which had been abandoned above fifty years: this he caused to be cleared out, and a plan taken of it. He discovered at Xarilla a mine two leagues in extent; and brought back specimens of the ore, the assay of which left no room to doubt of the great importance of the discovery. These inquiries having led him to examine with care the course of the mines and the mode of working them, the signs by which they may be detected and the best means of rendering them productive, he addressed a memoir on the subject to the court of Spain. At the same time he pointed out a new mine of gold, and mineralogists were sent into Chili in compliance with his instructions.

In this excursion into the Cordilleras he had to travel a hundred leagues, and the labour to which he submitted nearly deprived him of his hearing. He expended 15,000 livres, the reimbursement of which he refused, alleging that he was happy to sacrifice his time and labour to be useful to Spain, as he thought by so doing he seconded the intentions of France; but that he could render no account of his expenses, except to the government which sent him. He had done the same with regard to his expenses in

the analysis of the mineral waters of Caxatumbo.

In the midst of these labours his botanical pursuits were not neglected. He found in Chili one of the finest trees in the world, observed before by Molina, and imperfectly described under the name of *Pinus araucaria*. It is fit for masts, having a trunk 150 feet long, and straight as an arrow. M. Daubenton has spoken of it in his *Memoirs of Agriculture*, and called it *Basilaire*. Lamarck has described it under the name of *Dombeya*, and Juissieu under that of *Araucaria*. Dombey having pointed out to the Spaniards the use that might be made of this tree, and proved that a vessel which had been dismantled had been repaired with it at a small expense, the minister of the Indies gave him the thanks of his Catholic majesty. It is to be regretted that the seeds brought into Europe have not germinated, as there is reason to believe that the tree would succeed in the open ground in the southern departments of France, and that it would be very useful. The nuts are good to eat. Cones, male catkins, and planks of the wood, are preserved in the museum*.

* From trials lately made both in Chili and in Portugal, it has been found that the *Araucaria* is not so proper for masts as was at first supposed, the wood being too soft. Two other species of *Araucaria* have been discovered: the one, a native of Norfolk Island, is actually cultivated in the Kew garden, under the name of *Columbia*, the beauty of these trees tempting the English to bestow on the genus the name of the discoverer of the New World.—AUTHOR. (It is L'Heritier who called it *Columbia*.—EDIT.)

To be concluded in our next.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

BLACK MONDAY.

HANMER'S Chronicle gives the following account of the origin of this name.

Thorne Castle is now Cullen's wood; 'tis now an old stump of a castle just above ground, scarcely two miles from the city of Dublin. This City,

by reason of a great mortality, being much wasted and desolate, the inhabitants, after their country manner upon holydays, some for love of fresh air, and others for pastime, pleasure and gaming's sake, flocked out from thence to Cullen's wood. Upon Monday in Easter-week, the Burns and

Tools (the mountain enemies) like wolves lay in ambush for them, and finding they were unarmed, fell upon them, and slew about three hundred men, besides women and children, whom they led away in their hands: soon after, upon report of this, the city was peopled again by the Bristolians. Afterwards that dismal day used to be remembered, and solemnly observed by the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and citizens, with feasting, music, and pitching up of tents in that place (as though it was to dare those merciless slaves and cowards) and marching there regimentally, or in corporations in the best method they could devise, with varieties of formalities, as drums, colours flying, and other figures to each corporation. But this is left off lately, more is the pity; if it should be continued, once every two years, and the franchises every third year, it would occasion much trade to most of the tradesmen and dealers in the city of Dublin.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

Such was the poverty of the Western part of England during part of the 13th Century, that we find the English Judges excusing themselves to the Lord Chancellor, from holding a court of Eyre, in Cornwall. "*Si veniamus ibidem, macras genas reportabimus.*" Literally thus, "If we go thither, we shall bring back lantern jaws."

EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION.

Giraldus Cambrensis relates, that there is a small island, almost adjoining to Anglesey, which is inhabited by Hermits, living by manual labour, and serving God. It is remarkable, that when, by the influence of human passions, any discord arises among them, all their provisions are devoured and infected by a species of small mice, with which the island abounds; but when the discord ceases, they are no longer molested.

LORD AUDLEY.

James Lord Audley attended the Black prince at the battle of Poitiers, and was there severely wounded; the Prince rewarded him with a gift of four hundred marks, yearly rent; which he immediately divided among his four esquires, saying at the same

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time to the Prince, "Sir, it is meet that I do well for those who have deserved best of me, for these my esquires saved my life among my enemies, and God be thanked, my ancestors have left me sufficient revenues to maintain me in your service." This nobleman was afterwards killed at Blorenheath, in Shropshire, during the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

CIRCUITS IN MUNSTER AND CONNAUGHT.

Sir Arthur Chichester, who was Lord Deputy of Ireland, in the beginning of the reign of James the first, first established a circuit for Judges of Assize, in the provinces of Munster and Connaught.

ANECDOTE OF STRONGBOW'S SON.

It is recorded that Richard Strongbow, who first invaded Ireland, had a son who being desirous to signalize his courage, asked his father's permission to attack the Irish army, which had collected in great numbers. On being refused, he sallied out contrary to orders, but was so warmly received by the enemy, that he was forced to retreat, after having received a severe check. No sooner had he arrived at the English camp than his father, incensed at his disobedience and ill success, drew his sword, and plunged it into his body. He was buried, as was Strongbow himself afterwards, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, now called Christ's Church, Dublin.

JULIUS THE SECOND.

Julius II. had more of the spirit of a soldier than an ecclesiastic. He employed the great Michael Angelo, to superintend his buildings; and when he supposed him dilatory, often threatened to throw him off the scaffold. Once he gave him a severe beating, which he afterwards compensated by a handsome present in money. The same artist was employed to cast a statue of this Pope in bronze, for the city of Bologna, and proposed to put a book in his hand. "No," said the military pontiff, "let me hold a sword, I am no man of letters." When the Bentivoglio family became masters of Bologna, the statue was melted down and formed into a piece of ordnance; a change which would have given Julius no displeasure.

ABOU JOSEPH.

Abou Joseph flourished in the reign of Haroun al Raschid, by whom he was appointed to an office in Bagdat, similar to that of our Lord Chancellor. He was not only a man of Learning, but of much quickness in repartee, as appears from the following anecdote.

Some persons had consulted him on some point, on which he candidly acknowledged his ignorance. They reproached him with receiving large sums of money as a salary from the royal treasury; notwithstanding which he did not discharge his duty, as was proved by his ignorance in this particular. "My friend," replied he, "I receive a salary proportioned to what I know, but if I were to receive in proportion to what I do not know, all the treasures of the Khalifat would be insufficient to pay me."

ORIENTAL POETS.

The poets of Arabia stand high in the estimation of the Eastern Literati. One of the most conspicuous of them is Abou Tamam, who was born about

the year 190 of the Hegira, and died about the year 231. His life was rather short, as had been predicted of him by one of his friends, who, with a striking accuracy of comparison, said that the activity of his mind, would consume his body, as the blade of an Indian sword wears out its sheath. The testimony given of his works by a brother poet, is one of the most unequivocal kind. When a writer not only praises the works of a contemporary author, but even exalts them above his own, we have the strongest evidence in their favour. This is the case with respect to Abou Tamam's works: for Bakhteri, who is highly esteemed as a poet among the Arabians, being asked his opinion of them, and whether himself or Abou Tamam were the better poet? ingeniously declared, "what is good in Abou Tamam's writings, far surpasses the best of mine; while the bad in mine is much more tolerable than the exceptionable parts of his."

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

On employing Coal Gas for lighting small manufactories, and for other purposes from a paper by Mr. B. Cook, of Caroline-street, Birmingham.
PHIL. JOUR. V. XXI, P. 10291.

HITHERTO Coal Gas has only been employed permanently for lighting large manufactories. Mr. Cook has applied this Gas on a smaller scale in his manufactory of metallic toys, and has very benevolently published an account of the great advantages he has found from its use to induce others to follow his example.

Mr. Cook's apparatus consists of a small cast iron pot, containing about eight gallons, with a cast iron cover luted to it with sand, which serves as a retort for forcing over the gas from the coal placed in it, by fire applied beneath it; from this pot a pipe passes the gas, through water, to a reservoir, which holds about 400 gallons, whence it is conveyed all round the work-shops, through tubes formed of old gun barrels, which may be procur-

ed from the gun manufacturers at a cheap rate. Mr. Cook finds the flame of the gas much superior to that from a lamp urged by a blow pipe for soldering, which is much used in his trade; this flame is quicker and sharper, is constantly ready for use, and performs the work more neatly and more expeditiously than the lamp which requires to burn some time before its flame is sufficiently powerful for use, so that both the workman's time is lost by it, and much oil is wasted to no purpose.

This very useful application of the gas, of which Mr. Cook is the first inventor, makes it necessary to keep the apparatus in constant action, day and night, while his men are at work, and twenty-five pounds of coal put into the pot, are found to be sufficient to afford all the gas wanted every twenty-four hours, with a considerable surplus, which is burned to waste when not wanted; the whole quantity of gas produced by this quantity